TRIAL OF SHAW SET FOR JAN. 21

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'Moment of Truth' Has Arrived—Garrison

By CLARENCE DOUCET

Asserting that the long-awaited "moment of truth" has arrived, District Attorney Jim Garrison announced Wednesday that the trial of Clay L. Shaw on the charge that he participated in a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Garrison speculated that the trial may last five weeks.

He made the announcement at a press conference in his office and citing "obstructions" to the trial, he characterized the upcoming jury case as "a test of whether we really have justice in America."

Meanwhile, Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty, who will preside over the trial, said he has ordered the names of 250 potential jurors in January in anticipation of the historic case.

HEARING REFUSED

The way for Shaw's trial was cleared on Monday when the United States Supreme Court refused to hear Shaw's plea that he is being unjustly prosecuted on the conspiracy charge.

Referring to the plea to the U.S. Supreme Court, Garrison said it must mark "the first attempt to appeal a case before the trial" was held.

Shaw was arrested on March 1, 1967, about a week after it was disclosed publicly that Garrison was conducting his own investigation of the death of President Kennedy.

Shaw, retired managing director of the International Trade Mart, has maintained his innocence and has attempted to block the trial through legal maneuvers on the local, state and federal level.

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 25, Col. 5

SHAW TRIAL SET FOR JAN. 21

Continued from Page 1

Garrison cited the legal pleadings by Shaw as "obstructions" on the legal level, and asserted there have been "even more serious" obstructions "behind the scenes."

TRIAL TO PROCEED

He claimed that he has been contacted to learn if he would be interested in a federal judgeship for dropping the case and he replied: "The Clay Shaw trial is going to go ahead as scheduled and we will oppose every attempt" to block it.

He said other behind-the-scenes activities have included character assassination by claims that he was connected with organized crime, that he was insane, and that he was not competent to hold office. He also cited "an intense investigation" by the intelligence division of the Internal Revenue Service and the "warning that there might be criminal prosecution; for what I would have no idea."

Garrison claimed the federal government did not want the case to go to trial because it "does not want the people to learn that the Warren Commission was a complete fraud."

VOICES CONFIDENCE

He said he expects "more diversionary attempts, more character assassination and more obstructions—escalated to God knows what level" in the future, and added that he is "just as confident as I ever was about the state's case" in the Shaw trial.

Garrison also commented on William Boxley, an investigator he fired on Monday because, Garrison said, he was an operative of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"He was not only a CIA agent," said the DA, "but he was one on a very high level." Asked what proof his office developed, Garrison said it concerned material that Boxley had put in written form.

Boxley, contacted in Austin, Tex., told The Times-Picayune on Wednesday that he has not been involved with the CIA or any federal agency since 1952.

He said he believed Garrison "has been genuinely misled" about his CIA involvement, adding: "I am sure he believes as strongly in this (his alleged CIA involvement) as he once believed in me." Boxley said he would cooperate completely with Garrison's office in returning to it material he still has in his possession.

Boxley said the only written material he ever provided Garrison's office was a description of how various intelligence agencies operate.

Boxley said he was "really sad" over his firing by Garrison, but added that he believed no one could convince Garrison that he was not an agent of the CIA.